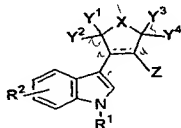


AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/622,815

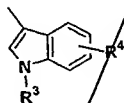
Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

Claim 20. (Amended) An inhibitor of apoptosis or necrosis represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein X represents an oxygen atom or N-R⁵; Z represents a halogen atom or



R¹ and R³ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an acyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy- or aryloxy carbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthiocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aminocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxyl group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, or a hydroxyl group; R² and R⁴ each represents

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/622,815

substituent(s) on an indole ring, in which number and position (2-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-position as position number of the indole ring) of the substituent(s) and kinds of the substituent(s) may be the same or different, and represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an acyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy- or aryloxy carbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthiocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aminocarbonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylsulfonyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkyl- or arylthio group which is substituted or unsubstituted, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, an amino group which is substituted or unsubstituted, or a halogen atom; R^5 represents an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxy group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an amino group which is substituted or unsubstituted, a hydroxyl group, or a hydrogen atom; Y^1 and Y^2 , and Y^3 and Y^4 each independently represent two hydrogen atoms or a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyl group, or are combined to form a carbonyl group; and R^1 and R^2 , R^1 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , or R^2 and R^4 may be combined to form a hydrocarbon chain

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/622,815

or a hydrocarbon chain containing hetero atom(s) which is substituted or unsubstituted; and in the formula, the bond accompanying a dotted line represents a double bond or a single bond, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

-- Claim 40. The inhibitor according to Claim 20, wherein R⁵ is an alkyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkenyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkynyl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an aryl group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an alkoxyl group or an aryloxy group which is substituted or unsubstituted, an amino group which is substituted or unsubstituted, or a hydroxyl group.

Claim 41. A method for treating apoptosis or necrosis in a subject, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment, an effective amount of the compound of Claim 20.

~~Claim 42. The method of Claim 40, wherein said subject has a disease selected from the group consisting of neurodegenerative disease, neonatal jaundice, myasthenia gravis, brain ischemia, delayed neuronal death, ischemic heart disease, viral myocarditis, autoimmune myocarditis, a myocardial disorder, hypertrophic heart, heart failure, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, alcoholic hepatitis, viral hepatitis, a renal disease, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), an inflammatory skin disorder, alopecia, graft versus host disease, a radiation disorder, a disorder due to a toxic agent, sepsis, osteomyelo-dysplasia, insulin dependent diabetes, and prion disease. --~~